

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, replace the paragraphs starting at line 3 and ending at line 23 with the following paragraphs.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a machine shoe for the support of objects, such as apparatuses and machines, with a movable metallic spindle secured to a base consisting of a bottom made of polymer material, such as a rubber product, with a metallic upper part. The invention moreover relates to method of supporting objects, such as apparatuses and machines.

THE PRIOR ART

Danish Utility Model DK 93 00256 discloses a machine shoe with a concealed attachment of the spindle, which is mounted on the object to be supported, in the lower base of the machine shoe.

In many applications where machine shoes are used, there are great requirements with respect to hygiene. This applied to, e.g., the food and hospital sectors.

The concealed attachment of the spindle and base part of the machine shoe is therefore of great importance to the hygiene, as the completely closed bottom prevents impurities and bacteria from penetrating up into the machine shoe from, e.g., a floor or tile level on which the machine shoe is placed.

Page 2, replace the paragraphs starting at line 11 and ending at line 31 with the following paragraphs.

In other known machine shoe types, the spindle may also be moved relative to the lower part of the machine shoe, while the spindle is secured to the base of the machine shoe. These machine shoe types are characterized in that the spindle is secured to the base of the machine shoe by assembly through an opening in the bottom of the machine shoe, frequently by screwing a nut on the lower end of the spindle. These structures, however, have the drawback that, e.g., impurities and bacteria may accumulate in the hole in the bottom of the machine shoe, which per se constitutes a hygiene problem. Further, certain structures involve the risk that impurities and bacteria from the opening in the bottom of the machine shoe can penetrate up through the machine shoe and from there to the object which is to be supported.

Accordingly, an object of the invention is to improve the known machine shoe structure of the type where the spindle may be moved relative to the base, and so that accumulation of impurities is eliminated.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object of the invention is achieved by a ~~product for support of the type defined in the introductory portion of claim 1,~~ apparatus having a movable spindle mounted to a base which is characterized in that the attachment of the spindle in the base is concealed, and that the surface of the base is shaped as part of ~~the~~ a ball face.

Page 3, replace the paragraphs starting at line 7 and ending at line  
Page 4, line 1 with the following paragraphs.

~~As stated in claim 2 the~~ The, invention is moreover characterized in  
that at least two locking rings for the attachment of a spindle are  
integrated in the polymer part of the base. This provides the advantage  
that the relation ship between the force by which the spindle is attached  
to the base of the machine shoe and the volume of the base is optimized.

~~It is stated in claim 3 that a~~ A further feature of the invention is that  
the locking rings integrated in the base are positioned in parallel and with  
the same centre axis, so that the centre point between the centre hole of  
the locking rings coincides with the centre of the movement of a spindle  
which is held by the locking rings, whereby the spindle may be moved  
optimally as it is attached at its pivot point.

~~As stated in claim 4, the~~ The invention is also characterized in that  
the upper face of the base, in the direction from which a secured spindle  
extends, is shaped as part of a ball face with the centre in the centre  
point between the centre holes of the integrated locking rings, thereby  
ensuring that the spindle may be moved freely in all directions solely  
restricted by the ball face.

~~Other expedient embodiments of the support are defined in claims 5  
to 8.~~

As mentioned, the invention also relates to a method which is  
characterized in that one or more components ~~as described in one or~~

~~more of claims 1-8~~ are used for the support, which allows optimum hygiene in supports based on machine shoes.

Page 4, replace the paragraphs starting at line 3 and ending at line 18 with the following paragraphs.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will now be explained more fully with reference to the drawings, in which

~~fig.~~ Fig. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a support where the spindle is arranged vertically relative to the lower base<sub>7i</sub>;

~~fig.~~ Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of a support where the spindle has been pivoted relative to the lower base<sub>7i</sub>;

~~fig.~~ Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view of a support where two locking rings are integrated in the polymer part of the base, and illustrates that the top of the base is a part of a ball face<sub>7i</sub>; and

~~fig.~~ Fig. 4 shows the same cross-section as ~~fig.~~ Fig. 3, but with the solid angle boundary of the ball face drawn.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT